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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BUREAU

TED SCHWINDEN, GOVERNOR

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July 1, 1982

Board of County Commissioners, Yellowstone County Courthouse, Billings, MT
James Neely, Sanitarian, Courthouse, Room 309, Billings, MT 59101
George Freeman, City-County Planning Director, P. O. Box 1178, Billings, MT
Albert Ehrlick, Mayor of Laurel, P. O. Box 10, Laurel, MT 59044
Environmental Quality Council, State Capitol Bldg., Room 432, Helena, MT
Tom Ellerhoff, Environmental Sciences Division, DHES, Helena, MT
Montana State Library, Harold Chambers, 930 E. Lyndale, Helena, MT

Gentlemen;

Pursuant to the Administrative Rules of Montana, Section 16-2.2(2)-P2030, Rule IV, the following Preliminary Environmental Review has been prepared by the Department of Health and Environmental Sciences concerning the Laurel Class II landfill expansion.

The purpose of the Preliminary Environmental Review is to inform all interested governmental agencies, public groups or individuals of the proposed action and to determine whether or not the action may have a significant effect on the human environment. This Preliminary Environmental Review will be circulated for a period of fifteen (15) days at which time a decision will be made as to our future action.

If you care to comment on this proposed action, please do so within the allotted time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John C. Geach".

JOHN C. GEACH
Solid Waste Management Bureau
Environmental Sciences Division

JCG:vc
Encls.

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PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Division/Bureau Environmental Sciences Division/Solid Waste Management Bureau

Project or Application Laurel City landfill expansion

Description of Project The City of Laurel wishes to expand their present landfill
to include a 10.02 acre parcel which lies immediately adjacent and southeast
of the present site.

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Terrestrial & aquatic life and habitats				X		
2. Water quality, quantity and distribution				X		X
3. Geology & soil quality, stability and moisture			X			X
4. Vegetation cover, quantity and quality			X			X
5. Aesthetics				X		
6. Air quality				X		
7. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
8. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy			X			X
9. Historical and archaeological sites				X		

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

	Major	Moderate	Minor	None	Unknown	Comments on Attached Pages
1. Social structures and mores				X		
2. Cultural uniqueness and diversity				X		
3. Local and state tax base & tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural or industrial production			X			X
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity and distribution of community and personal income				X		
7. Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities				X		
8. Quantity and distribution of employment				X		
9. Distribution and density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial & commercial activity				X		
12. Demands for energy				X		
13. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals				X		
14. Transportation networks & traffic flows				X		X

Other groups or agencies contacted or which may have overlapping jurisdiction _____

Individuals or groups contributing to this PER. _____

Recommendation concerning preparation of EIS _____ Not necessary

PER Prepared by: John C. Geach

JOHN C. GEACH

Date: July 1, 1982

POTENTIAL IMPACT ON PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. Water quality, quantity and distribution

There is evidence of elevated groundwater levels in portions of the expansion area. State refuse disposal rules require a minimum ten (10) foot soil separation between the bottom of the refuse trench and the groundwater level. The City of Laurel has agreed to using the following procedures to determine the groundwater depth of each trench excavated in the areas: (1) A small portion of each new trench will be excavated to the proposed depth using conventional landfill equipment; (2) A backhoe will then be used to excavate a small hole to an additional depth of at least ten feet (3) If no evidence of groundwater is noted within the ten foot distance the trench excavation can be completed. However, if evidence of groundwater exists within ten feet of the proposed trench bottom, the depth of the trench must be adjusted to provide the minimum separation distance; (4) Data from each trench groundwater test must be submitted to and approved by the Solid Waste Management Bureau prior to the use of the trench.

3. Geology and soil quality, stability and moisture

Normal landfill operations modify the soil's moisture and stability within the filled areas. Some minor settling may occur over completed trench areas. However, with proper grading and re-dressing of these areas no serious or long term settling problems will result.

4. Vegetative cover, quantity and quality

The area currently contains native vegetation including sage brush and native grasses. This vegetation will be disturbed during landfilling, however, this disturbance will be short term and these plant species should quickly re-establish on the filled portions of the site.

8. Demands on environment resources of land, water, air and energy

Petroleum fuels will be expended by landfill equipment at this site. Since this is an expansion of the presently operated site additional equipment should not be needed. Therefore there should not be an increase in the current energy consumption rate.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

4. Agricultural or industrial production

The expansion area could be used for limited cattle grazing. The use of this area for landfill will remove this grazing capability for a short term period.

14. Transportation network and traffic flows

Since this expansion area is adjacent to the existing landfill and will be served by the present roads in the area, no additional transportation problems or increases in traffic flows are anticipated.

